

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on October 10, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 21, 25, 34, 48, 56-58, 63, 67 and 72 are amended; claims 1-77 remain pending in this application.

Terminal Disclaimer and Double Patenting

On page 3, item 6 of the final Office Action, the Examiner reminded the applicant that permission from the applicant is needed to charge the terminal disclaimer fee in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.20(d) in order to enter the terminal disclaimer previously submitted by the applicant on June 27, 2003. Applicant hereby resubmits the terminal disclaimer along with permission to charge the appropriate fee. If necessary, please charge for the terminal disclaimer fee or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0967.

The first Office Action rejected claims 21, 25, 35 and 22-24 and 26-30 and 31 and 48 and 32, 33, 49, and 52 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5, and 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,460. This nonstatutory double patenting rejection should now have been overcome by the fee along with resubmission of the terminal disclaimer. Withdrawal of the judicially-created nonstatutory double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

The first Office Action rejected claims 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 4-7 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,777. As indicated on page 2, item 3 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, the statutory double patenting rejection of claims 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. §101 has been withdrawn.

Claim Amendments

The Examiners further explanation of his interpretation of the applied art is appreciated. Though applicant does not agree, claim amendments are made to improve definiteness and to advance prosecution. At least claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 56-58 and 63 are amended to improve definiteness. Other claims are amended to advance prosecution.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

On page 3, item 8 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, claims 1-6, 13-14, 20-22, 27-30, 34-37, 48-53, 55-58, 63-64, 66-68, 72, and 74-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,001) in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,906).

In addition to the arguments submitted in the previous June 25, 2003 Amendment, neither Aditham et al. nor Kumar et al. disclose or suggest clients/users which generate active “*hyperlink objects*” and servers/steps which “filter ... the active *hyperlink objects*” as recited in independent claims 1, 13, 31, 56 and 63 or “selectively relay” or transmit *hyperlink objects* as recited in independent claims 21, 25, 34, 48, 67 and 72. Kumar et al. is cited in the Office Action as the secondary reference to show various claimed objects including hyperlinks. Kumar et al. states:

The data in the shared work space can be anything; e.g., a spreadsheet, an image, a simple text file, a text document, a drawing, a project schedule, a three-dimensional view, or any custom data. (col. 3, lines 45-48)

Nevertheless the disclosure of Kumar et al. does not teach or suggest *filtered hyperlink objects* alone or in combination as now claimed. Selectively relaying/transmitting a hyperlink object allows permitted recipients of that hyperlink to collaborate by referencing other material over a network using an embedded URL or address in a way not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Such ability provides synergistic or active feature advantages that are non-analogous to the static type of text or image data in Kumar et al. Assuming arguendo that the prior art could have been combined to show the selective filtering of documents, for the reasons herein that would still not have rendered obvious the claimed selective filtering of hyperlink objects themselves. Accordingly applicant submits that the pending claims now patently distinguish over a combination of Aditham et al. and Kumar et al.

On page 7, item 29 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Aditham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,001) in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,906) as applied to claims 1-6 and further in view of Smythe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,214).

Smythe et al. do not disclose or suggest the claimed filtering step. Nor does Raz disclose or suggest such for hyperlink objects. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 over Aditham et al. in view of Kumar et al. and further in view of Smythe et al. is respectfully requested.

On page 8, item 31 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, claims 8-12, 15-19, 23-24, 38-40, 45-47, 54, 60-62, and 69-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Aditham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,001) in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,906) as applied to claims 1-6 and further in view of England (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,991).

England does not disclose or suggest the claimed filtering step or structure or code permitting selective transmission of user generated objects by a server. Nor does Raz disclose or suggest such for hyperlink objects. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-12, 15-19, 23-24, 38-40, 45-47, 54, 60-62, and 69-70 over Aditham et al. in view of Kumar et al. and further in view of England is respectfully requested.

On page 10, item 42 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, claims 26, 59, 65, 71, and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Aditham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,001) in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,906) as applied to claims 1-6 and further in view of Raz (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,827).

Raz does not disclose or suggest the claimed filtering step or structure or code permitting selective transmission of user generated objects including hyperlink objects by a server. Nor does Raz disclose or suggest filtered hyperlink objects. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26, 59, 65, 71, and 73 over Aditham et al. in view of Kumar et al. and further in view of Raz is respectfully requested.

On page 11, item 48 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Aditham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,001) in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,906) as applied to claims 1, 3 and 4 and further in view of the WWW Conference article by Jacobs. Also, this section of the final Office Action cites but, does not specifically apply Pizano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,055) and Honda (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,885).

Independent claim 31 is drawn to “machine readable code stored in memory for converting a general purpose computer system into a dedicated White Board system facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users, the machine readable code generating ... a hyperlink connection tool for generating active hyperlink objects which are displayable at user-selected locations on the White Board screen ... and a filter device connecting all of the users and permitting selective transmission of the objects to the users.”

Since neither Aditham et al. nor Kumar et al. teach machine readable code for generating the filter specifically recited in claim 31 nor the filtered hyperlink objects, no combination of these references would have rendered the invention of claim 31 obvious. Moreover, since none of the additional references cited in item 48 of the Office Action teach or suggest this limitation, and are not cited as teaching such a filter device, no possible combination of the five cited references could render claim 31 obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 31-33 over Aditham et al. in view of Kumar et al. and further in view of the Jacobs article is respectfully requested.

On page 12, item 57 of the September 10, 2003 final Office Action, claims 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Aditham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,001), Kumar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,906) and England (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,991) as applied to claim 39 and further in view of Howell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,276,901).

Independent claim 34 (from which claims 41-44 depend) recites “machine readable code stored in memory for converting a general purpose computer system into a dedicated White Board system facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users, the machine readable code generating ... a White Board server which operatively couples the first and the second White Board clients to one another, which selectively relays the first and the second objects including

active hyperlink objects between the second and the first White Board clients, respectively, responsive to the first and second privilege levels, and which stores a White Board session in a White Board session file.”

As discussed above, since neither Aditham et al. nor Kumar et al. teach machine readable code for generating the White Board server recited in claim 34, these references would not have rendered the invention of claim 34 obvious. Moreover, addition of England to the combination would not have rendered the invention of claim 34 obvious since all of the users of system taught by England receive identical information. The addition of Howell et al. teaches away from the invention recited in claim 34, since the proposed combination would result in a collaboration system where a single user with a high privilege level could receive an object or file from a partitioned storage, thus permitting everyone in the public session to see the object regardless of their respective privilege levels.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 41-44 over Aditham et al., Kumar et al. and England further in view of Howell et al. is respectfully requested.

Because the above claim amendments either improve definiteness of the claims or claim limitations which have been previously examined, no further examination or different search is required and, accordingly, applicants request entry of such amendments upon reconsideration, now that the application should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-77 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0967.

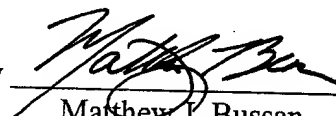
Respectfully submitted,

ADAM J. SIMONOFF

By their Representatives,

Date 12.10.2003

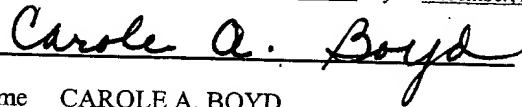
By


Matthew J. Bussan

Reg. No. 33,614

Phone: (540) 653-8061

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10th day of December, 2003


Name CAROLE A. BOYD

Dec. 10, 2003